

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-20, and 26-30 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claims 26-30 are allowed and claims 22-25 are withdrawn. Claims 5, 10, and 21-25 have been canceled to permit allowable subject matter to pass immediately to allowance.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claims 2-5, 8, 10, 14-16, and 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants believe that the above claim amendments correctly accomplishes the effect of permitting all the claims indicated as allowable to pass to allowance.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 11-13, and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 5,701,308 to Attaway et al.

Although Applicants disagree with this rejection, the claims have been placed into condition for an immediate allowance. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file a continuation and/or divisional without agreeing that the prior art of record is proper.

FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-20, and 26-30, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Assignee's Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully Submitted,



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